

## Council on Aging Board of Directors Remote Meeting

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Present:** Director Jim Leyden, Chair George Shea, Vice Chair Fran Miffitt, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marybeth Bergeron, John Bowen, Saul Finestone, Marjorie Morgan, Rose Morace, Eleanor Stolar, Jan Komaiszko, Judy Yaffe, Theresa Yesu

**Guest:** Robin Frechette

**Absent:** Phil Hallahan, Julia Moulton, Marilyn Hurst

**Welcome:** George called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes from October 15<sup>th</sup> were approved.

### **Reports:**

**Select Board:** Our liaison from the select board was not available.

**State Representative:** Robin noted the house had finished the budget, 46 billion dollars. It included for housing, food, security – 54% for health and services, \$12 budget per senior. The bulk of the budget will now go to the senate.

**Director's:** Jim passed out reports on the virtual programs for the month of October. All were impressed with the great job the office was doing on these programs as well as the number of participants involved.

**Treasurer's Report:** We are in good standing with our revolving accounts. Our total balance is \$42,153.33.

**FOLOCA:** Jim has been in touch with FOLOCA. They have had no formal meetings. Judy noted that FOLOCA paid for 40 turkeys for the Food Bank.

**GSSSI:** Fran attended their meeting yesterday. They are in a crisis at this point. They are unable to service people at home who are returning from surgery in need of help with home care. AIC senior nursing students are helping with contract tracing of COVID 19 cases in the area. Robin was hopeful that in April an amendment on FY22 could pass and be of help.

**Building Committee:** The construction is moving along. They are working on the trim inside. In the library area the wainscoting is beautiful. Some of the outside paving will be done in warmer weather; possibly next week. The estate funds will be used in different rooms and these rooms will be named after the people who donated the funds. Eleanor noted that from the over 60, a clock will be donated for one of the rooms. Marybeth said that cherry wood is being used in some areas instead of maple. George wondered about the difference in cost and she said that cherry had a harder surface and would not easily show bumps and knicks like maple wood. She thinks the building won't be completed fully until the end of January. People have asked how many trips around the track make a mile; 15 trips around are 1 mile. There is a material around the gym wall that protects the wall which is not satisfactory and will have to be replaced. Marybeth thinks it will be done with no additional cost. Marybeth suggested Jim check with Paul Pasterczyk on the fund balances that we would use.

**Advocacy:** There is nothing new to report.

**New Business:**

- a. New Outreach Coordinator hired: The new coordinator is Julie Pierce of Longmeadow. She will start December 7<sup>th</sup>. Jim stated she did a wonderful job in the interview and comes highly qualified. She will be working 35 hours a week. Jim thinks she will be a perfect fit.

**Old Business:**

- a. Meals on wheels update; Jim passed out updates regarding the program. There were 70 recipients of the program in October.
- b. Food Pantry update: A question regarding donations to the food pantry. Jim noted that donations are always welcome. This month pasta sauces, are needed (not pasta). Breakfast cereal, rice is also needed, but anything would be accepted.
- c. Virtual programming: A big thank you to Lindsey for all her efforts which have had such success. There was a list of programs for the month of October.
- d. COA Furloughs: George wondered about furloughs meaning and Jim stated it meant being laid off, but unemployment could be filed. The furloughs are extended until January and could be extended again depending on COVID.

Saul spoke of a Longmeadow Democratic Town committee zoom meeting which will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup>. No time was discussed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting ended at 10:25am.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Tyson